

From: Nassif, Julianne (DPH) <Julianne.Nassif@MassMail.State.MA.US>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2011 10:32 AM
To: Khan, Annie (DPH) <Annie.Khan@MassMail.State.MA.US>; O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH) <Elisabeth.O'Brien@MassMail.State.MA.US>; Salemi, Charles (DPH) <Charles.Salemi@MassMail.State.MA.US>
Cc: Sprague, Shirley (DPH) <Shirley.Sprague@MassMail.State.MA.US>
Subject: RE: heroin OD's FYI

Great, thanks. Keep me posted.
Julie

Could it be that the heroin is just much stronger than previous "lots"?

From: Khan, Annie (DPH)
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:31 AM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH); O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Cc: Sprague, Shirley (DPH)
Subject: RE: heroin OD's FYI

Yes, all three narcotics are run under the same method. We had an issues a few years ago with fentanyl and it was not a problem.

Annie

From: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:29 AM
To: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Cc: Khan, Annie (DPH); Sprague, Shirley (DPH)
Subject: RE: heroin OD's FYI

Thanks. Will we be able to detect fentanyl and or ketamine in the same run or do we need to adjust parameters?

From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:20 AM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Cc: Khan, Annie (DPH); Sprague, Shirley (DPH)
Subject: heroin OD's FYI

FYI Julie and Chuck,

I have spoken to a Sgt. Thomas Joyce again this morning about the recent rash of heroin OD's they have seen in the city over the last 7-8 days. He had inquired about our observations of heroin samples recently and if there had been unusual findings that we had seen. Word on the street was that the heroin had been cut with ketamine. Since we are 2-3 months behind in analyzing routine samples we did not have recent data.

Subsequently last Friday I pulled about 8 recent Boston heroin samples and assigned them to Annie. When I spoke to Sgt. Joyce today he said they had heard that possibly the heroin was being cut with fentanyl. He does not have any heroin seized that is directly related to an OD as of yet. As heroin samples come in this week from Boston I will pull them and assign them to Annie as well and we will see if there is anything unusual.

Betsy